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Maskelynes language

Maskelynes (/ˈmæskəlɪns/), or **Kuliviu** (**Uliveo**), is an Oceanic language spoken on the Maskelyne Islands off south Malekula, Vanuatu.

Contents

Maskelynes	
Kuliviu, Uliveo	
Native to	Vanuatu
Region	Malekula
Native speakers	1,100 (2001)[1]

Language family	Austronesian
	■ Malayo-Polynesian
	  ● Oceanic
	   ■ Southern Oceanic
	    ■ Central Vanuatu
	     ■ Malakula
	      ■ Eastern
	       ■ **Maskelynes**

Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`klv`
Glottolog	mask1242 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mask1242)[2]

Phonology

Consonants

	Labial		Dental/alveolar	Dorsal
	Plain	**Labiovelarized**		
Nasal	m	mʷ	n	ŋ
Plosive **Unvoiced**	p	pʷ	t̪	k
Plosive **Voiced**	ᵐb	ᵐbʷ	ⁿd̪	ᵑg
Fricative	β	βʷ	s	x~ɣ~ʀ
Approximant		w	l	j
Rhotic			r~ɾ	

- /ᵐb, ⁿd, ᵑg/ are in free variation as unreleased [ᵐb̚, ⁿd̚, ᵑg̚] or unvoiced [p, t, k] word-finally or before a consonant[3]

  - /ᵑg/ is also in free variation as nasal [ŋ] word-finally, especially among young speakers[4]

- /ᵑg/ is realized as a voiceless [k] among some speakers, especially young[4]

- /p, pʷ, t/ are unreleased [p̚, p̚, t̚] word-finally or before a consonant (though /p/ has never been recorded before a consonant)[5]

- /mʷ, pʷ, ᵐbʷ, βʷ/ lose their labialization word-finally when not followed by a vowel and before /o, u/[6]

  - /ᵐbʷ/ is in free variation as trilled [ᵐʙ] (tapped [ᵐɣ] in Peskarus) before /u/ and sometimes before /ə/[4]

- /βʷ/ is [β] before voiced consonants[7]

- /β, βʷ/ are [ɸ] before voiceless consonants and word-finally[7]

- /β/ is in free variation with [ɸ] for some speakers[7]
- /w, j/ are vocalic [u, i] when in <u>nucleus</u> following /e, a, o/[8]

Vowels

	Front	**Central**	**Back**
Close	i		u (ʉ)
Mid	ɛ	ə	o
Open			ɑ

- /i/ is <u>near-close</u> [ɪ] between front consonants[9]
- /ɛ/ is <u>close-mid</u> [e] word-finally[9]
- /ə/ is [ɵ] after labiovelarized consonants or before /xʉ̥/[9]
- /əj, əw/ are realised as single morphemes, [i, u][8]
- /u/ is realised as front [y] between front consonants, and <u>near-close</u> [ʊ] when proceeded or preceded by back consonants[10]
- /o/ is front [ø] between front consonants[10]

Voiceless vowel

A voiceless [ʉ̥] occurs at the ends of words. It is uncertain if it is an <u>allophone</u> of /u/ or a separate phoneme[11]

Phonotactics

Possible syllable structures in Maskelynes: (C/S)V(S)(C)[12]

Letter-to-phoneme correspondence

Maskelynes alphabet

Letter	a	b	ɓ̃	d	e	ə	g	h	i	k	l	m	m̃	n	ŋ	o	p	p̃	r	s	t	u	w	v	ṽ	w/u	y/i
IPA	ɑ	ᵐb	ᵐbʷ	ⁿd̪	ɛ	ə	ᵑg	x	i̪	k̪	l̪	m̪	m̪ʷ	n̪	ŋ	o̪	p̪	p̪ʷ	r	s̪	t̪	u̪	ʉ̥	β	βʷ	w̪	j̪

Grammar

Verbs

The verbs of Maskelynes are <u>agglutinative</u>, mostly being modified by <u>prefixes</u>, though the stem of a verb can stand on its own. These prefixes encode for, in order of appearance in verb: 1. <u>tense-aspect-modes</u>; 2. subject, person and number; 3. various <u>modes</u>, including <u>realis</u> and <u>irrealis</u>; 4. two <u>tense</u>-modes; 5. reduplication. The object of a sentence is encoded by a suffix.[13]

Examples of verbal agglutination:[14]

> *sa-g-e-mun-i*
> PROH-2SG.SUBJ-IRR-drink-3SG.OBJ
> Don't you drink it.

> *go-to-madha-mun-mun-i*
> 2SG.SUBJ-REL-IMM.PST-ITER~drink-3SG.OBJ
> You who just now kept drinking it

Reduplication

Reduplication in Maskelynes has various usages, and can encode for e.g. plurality, habituality, iterative aspect, etc.[15]

External links

- Resources in and about the Maskelynes language (http://www.language-archives.org/language/klv) at OLAC
- Paradisec has a number of collections that include Maskelynes language materials (http://catalog.paradisec.or g.au/collections/search?language_code=klv)
- Maskelynes (Kuliviu) (https://www.omniglot.com/writing/maskelynes.htm) at Omniglot

References

1. Maskelynes (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/klv/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Maskelynes" (http://glottolog.org/res ource/languoid/id/mask1242). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Healey 2013, pp. 14-15.
4. Healey 2013, p. 15.
5. Healey 2013, p. 13.
6. Healey 2013, p. 19.
7. Healey 2013, p. 17.
8. Healey 2013, pp. 18-19.
9. Healey 2013, p. 20.
10. Healey 2013, p. 21.
11. Healey 2013, pp. 24-25.
12. Healey 2013, p. 25.
13. Healey 2013, Section 8.1: Verb morphology.
14. Healey 2013, p. 181.
15. Healey 2013, section 8.5: Reduplication.

Bibliography

- Healey, David S. (2013). *A GRAMMAR OF MASKELYNES: THE LANGUAGE OF ULUVEU ISLAND, VANUATU* (http://www.uspaquatic.library.usp.ac.fj/gsdl/collect/usplibr1/index/assoc/HASH3017.dir/doc.pdf) (PDF) (PhD). University of the South Pacific. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200531090432/http://di gilib.library.usp.ac.fj/gsdl/collect/usplibr1/index/assoc/HASH3017.dir/doc.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 2020-05-31. Retrieved 2020-05-31.